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SAPC-15609
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10 May 1957

25X1A MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr.

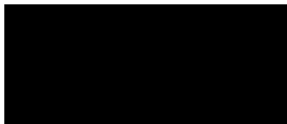

1. As you instructed me, I contacted all of our physiology officers. They completed tests on every helmet and face plate in use.

2. All helmets were checked at maximum altitude and over fifty percent higher pressures than would be experienced during flameout in the U-2. Roughly, these pressures simulate pressure-differentials at 150,000 feet altitude.

3. There was not a single blowout of face plates. The tiny leaks at some of the fittings have always been known to us and in tests they are about 1 cc of outside air per one half hour, which is completely negligible and could not cause hypoxia.

4.  helmet shows definitely that pliers were used to loosen the latching mechanism, and this only points out more acutely the fact that our worst offenders as face plate removers have always been the LAC pilots,  included.

5. I have given strict orders to all PTO'S to reindoctrinate all the pilots, including LAC. They also will record a maximum altitude test on every helmet and face plate before every flight. This only takes two minutes of their time. I believe, this will stop any future possibility of blowouts.

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